

THE JEWISH HERALD

HOUSTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER 2, 1909

"POLITICS?"

To have a medium wherein we may be permitted to speak our mind regarding our own affairs to our own people is a great satisfaction, and I make the request of the always impartial and ever obliging Jewish Herald to publish the following: At a recent called meeting of a Congregation the repeated cry was heard "Politics!" "Politics!" It was evident that by this intended to be derogatory term the following was alluded to:

"A carefully prepared and well authenticated statement of the income and expenditures of the congregation

2. A request for greater professional activity on the part of the Rabbi before his re-election.

3. A demand on the Rabbi that he abstain from violation of the dietary laws as well as from desecrating the Sabbath as it is laid down by orthodox doctrine.

4. A demand on the Rabbi to preach on subjects interesting to and within the scope of the understanding of the attending members.

5. To insist that the Rabbi act with greater sociability towards his flock so that he may not be a stranger to them and know them in the House of God only.

In contradistinction to all this the following appears more entitled to that odious term "Politics" than the former:

1. A statement of the income and expenditure of the Congregation gotten up by an individual member at his own private expense, showing items at variance with the official statement.

2. Acknowledging the inactivity of the Rabbi but voting for his re-election with a view of making him do his duty after election.

3. The Rabbi's acknowledged shortcomings, notwithstanding, to vote for his retention in office.

4. To express satisfaction with the sermons of the Rabbi but fail to attend

them and patronize dancehalls, picture shows and other places of amusement on the holy Sabbath Eve instead.

5. To mercilessly condemn the Rabbi for all actual and imaginary wrongs in private conversation and then come to the election with a vote in their pocket calling for his election.

It looks to me more like the case of the Pot calling the Kettle black.

JUSTICE.

DIRTY POLITICS.

The game of politics when played for the uplift of humanity and the furtherance of government is praiseworthy and commendable, but when politics of a vile brand are injected into the religious life of a community by demagogues seeking personal advantage, it should forfeit the confidence and respect of every honest man for such politicians and ought to consign them to ignominy and the dust of oblivion. By such an act they make of themselves moral lepers.

On the eve of the election of a spiritual leader for Congregation Adath Yeshurun, there was mailed to the members of that Congregation a statement purporting to give the monthly income and monthly expenditures of the Congregation, so pregnant with misrepresentation and falsehood that it should not go unnoticed. The statement showed a total income of \$335 per month and a monthly expenditure of \$495.83, a deficit of \$160.83 per month. No effort was made to render to the members a full and complete statement including the total assets and liabilities of the Congregation, so that a just estimate of the present affairs of the Congregation could be made.

Below will be found a copy of said statement as well as a statement prepared by a leading member of Congregation Adath Yeshurun, completely refuting the statement issued by the Board of Trustees of the Congregation, which latter statement was freely circulated

at the meeting held last Sunday afternoon.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

MONTHLY INCOME.

Dues	\$150.00
Holiday tickets and offerings....	130.00
Offerings balance of year.....	20.00
Cemetery	15.00
Hall rent	7.50
Purim ball	12.50
Total income	\$335.00

MONTHLY EXPENDITURES.

Beginning after next month.

One note principal	\$ 87.50
Interest on note	87.50
Salary, Rabbi	125.00
Salary, Cantor Lieberman	40.00
Salary, Sexton Goldapper.....	50.00
Salary, Cemetery Watchman....	15.00
Salary, Secretary.....	8.33
Insurance	30.00
Water, gas and electric light..	20.00
Repairs	25.00
Postage and stationery	5.00
Supplies and small items	2.50
Total expenditures	\$495.83

UNOFFICIAL STATEMENT.

INCOME.

Dues, 175 members at \$1.....	\$175.00
Tickets	125.00
Offerings and Leahs.....	25.00
Offerings balance of the year..	20.00
Cemetery	50.00
Hall rent, 6 lodges at \$2.50 per lodge	15.00
Purim Ball	12.50

EXPENSES.

Principal on one note (this to be paid when collected from House's Bank), \$87.50.	
Interest	\$87.50
Salaries:	
Rabbi	125.00
Cantor	40.00
Sexton	50.00
Secretary	8.33
Cemetery watchman is paid by the ladies.....	
Insurance for one month (we have the three year rate)...	10.00
Water, gas and electric light...	16.00
Repairs (there are none to be made that will amount to \$1.00.	
Postage, 175 postals at 1c \$1.75	
Printing25
Supplies50
\$339.33	

RECAPITULATION.

Income	\$422.50
Expenses	339.33
Balance in favor of the Congregation	\$ 83.17

Why aren't the future dividends to be declared by the House bank an income? Then again, if the House Bank don't pay another cent, your